

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Norio Sugawara, et al.  
Serial No. : 10/506,719  
For : EXTERNAL STORAGE APPARATUS  
Filed : September 7, 2004  
Examiner : Hung S. Bui  
Art Unit : 2841  
Confirmation No. : 5177

**THIRD INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**January 7, 2009**

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of the cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003.

The documents are being submitted after a first Office Action on the merits but prior to the closing of prosecution, therefore under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed.

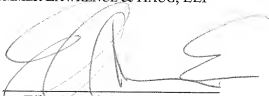
A fee of \$180.00 (1806) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed.

To assist the Examiner, the document is listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG, LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMAS', is written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Marcie Emas  
Registration No. 32,131

Date: January 7, 2009